

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/989,469

Examiner

Wesley A. Nicolas

Applicant(s)

KADOTA, HIROYUKI

Art Unit

1742

20

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment submitted 11/12/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. <u>Submitted 11/12/03</u> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the Amendment submitted November 12, 2003. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 8-16 are currently pending in this application.

Election/Restriction

1. The cancellation of non-elected claims 1-7 by Applicant in the amendment submitted November 12, 2003 has been noted. Applicant may re-file said claims in a divisional application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

2. The 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 rejections as set forth in the previous Office action have been withdrawn in view of the amendment and convincing argument submitted by Applicant on November 12, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on November 12, 2003 was filed after the mailing date of the First Office action on August 12, 2003. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 8-16 are allowed over the prior art of record.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 8, the specific electrolytic gold plating apparatus which includes a detector configured to detect a deterioration degree of a gold sulfite plating solution in which light is irradiated to said gold sulfite plating solution and the light intensity is measured after the light is irradiated was not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Regarding claim 9, the specific electrolytic gold plating apparatus which includes a means for irradiating light to a gold sulfite plating solution and measuring a light intensity after irradiation, and at least one means for measuring a pH of said gold sulfite plating solution was not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

It should be noted that the structure claimed in claims 8 and 9 is limited to measurement of gold sulfite plating solution measurement.

Regarding claim 14, the specific apparatus which includes an absorptiometer for irradiating light to said plating solution and measuring a light intensity after said irradiation; a pH meter for measuring a pH of said plating solution; a concentration measurement unit consisting of an automatic titrator or a liquid chromatograph for measuring a concentration of at least one of sulfurous acid or sulfuric acid in said plating solution; pipes for individually connecting said absorptiometer, said pH meter and said concentration measurement unit to said gold plating bath, said pipes making

Art Unit: 1742

said plating solution to pass through; and a personal computer for displaying quality of said plating solution based on a value measured by at least one of said absorptiometer, said pH meter and said concentration measurement unit were not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1742

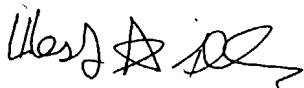
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wesley Nicolas whose telephone number is (571) 272-1247. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 7am to 5pm.

The Supervisory Primary Examiner for this Art Unit is Roy King whose telephone number is (571) 272-1244.

The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



WESLEY A. NICOLAS
PATENT EXAMINER

January 25, 2004